

The Little People

OUR HEROES

Here's a hand to the boy who has courage
To do what he knows to be right,
When he falls in the way of temptation,
Or has a hard battle to fight.
Who strives against self and his comrades
Will find a most powerful foe.
All honor to him if he conquers!
A cheer for the boy who says "No!"

There's many a battle fought daily
The world knows nothing about.
There's many a brave little soldier
Whose strength puts a legion to rout.
And he who fights sin single-handed
Is more of a hero, I say,
Than he who leads soldiers to battle,
And conquers by arms in the fray.

Be steadfast, my boy, when you're tempted,
To do what you know to be right,
Stand firm by the colors of manhood,
And you will overcome in the fight.
"The right," be your battle-cry ever
In waging the warfare of life:
And God, who knows who are the heroes,
Will give you the strength for the strife.

—Phoebe Cary.

JUNIOR LESSON FOR JULY 10

The Consecration of Ability. Hag. 2: 1-9; Mark 29-31

Dear Boys and Girls: Perhaps you do not know the meaning of the words in this topic. They may be hard for you to understand. We will therefore try to explain them to you. Ability is the power to do something. It need not be much, but something. Every boy and girl has some ability however little it may be. You can talk, walk, hear, see, and you can handle things. A great many people have the power, that is the ability, to do, but they use it in doing evil rather than good. That is why this power or ability is to be consecrated. Look at the subject again, *Consecrated ability*. To consecrate anything is to devote it to sacred uses, to use it for God and Christ. You will now understand what the subject means. It means that you are to devote the power you have to do, to the cause of your Master, even Jesus.

But now what have you that can be devoted to the Master's use? (1) Perhaps you have money. If so you can devote that to the Master's use. Money can be used for many good purposes. Instead of spending it for candy and ice cream, give your pennies to the missionary cause, bring them to Sunday school and help to buy good literature. In this way you consecrate your money to the Lord. (3) But there are other ways of doing good. You may not have money, what then? Can you talk? Certainly. Then go out and invite your friends to Sunday School and church, and when they do come help to make them welcome, speak to them and ask them to come back. Most every one could do that. (3) You have hands, have you not? Well, that gives you ability. You can do kind acts, loving deeds, and the Lord will not forget any little act of love you may do. Jesus said if we give a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple,

he will reward the act. (4) You have feet, have you not? That too gives you ability, for you can run errands for the Master. You can visit the sick, bring them flowers and do many things that will help them. You did not know you had so much ability, did you? (5) Best of all is to give yourself to Jesus, then he will have your money, hands, feet, mouth and ears, and body and soul will be consecrated to him.

HIS FIRST DAY

It was very exciting and delightful. Little Boy was going to school for the first time.

"Learn all you can, son," his father said, giving him a pat on the head, as he passed out of the dining-room from breakfast, "and be a good boy."

His mother pulled out the loops of his plaid necktie, and kissed him twice, and said: "Darling Little Boy, be good."

And then he went, the very last thing of all, with his new primer and his new tin bucket, to grandma's room.

"Remember, dearie," said grandma, with her soft hand under his chin, "that goodness is the best lesson you can learn."

So Little Boy went to school, and had a beautiful time until school was nearly over. Then suddenly the teacher, Miss Agatha, in a voice whose sternness made him jump, said to the boy next to him:

"Charlie, you are talking. I am sorry to give you a bad mark on the first day."

Poor Little Boy! His head dropped over the desk, and his heart beat fast. How could he ever speak out loud in that big quiet room with the others all listening to him?

The family would be so disappointed and ashamed for him to get a bad mark.

They would be more disappointed and ashamed, said something down deep in Little Boy's heart, for you to be mean and not to tell.

They won't ever know.

God will, came the answer. And it's just as bad for him to be ashamed of you. He is one of the family anyway, I guess.

"Miss Agatha," said Little Boy as fast as he could, "Charlie was just whispering back because I asked him something. I think you'd better give me that mark, please mam."

Miss Agatha looked at Little Boy's red, scared face, and the frown went away from her own.

"No, indeed, Aleck, she said (that was Little Boy's real name;) I will not give any bad marks this morning, and I can't tell you how glad I am to have a new scholar who loves the truth so well."

Little Boy was happy again. When he told his mother, he said:

"Isn't it good that I took all your advice?"—*Sally Campbell, in the Sunbeam.*

"Mamma," asked a bright little fellow, "how old will I be my next birthday?"

"Six years old, dear, if you live," was the reply.

"Well, suppose I don't live," continued the youngster, "will I keep right on having birthdays just like George Washington?"

Our Young People

THE CONSECRATION OF ABILITY

Mark 12: 29-31; Hag. 2: 1-9

Topic Sunday July 10

If one loves the Lord with all his heart there will be no danger of mind and soul and strength being unconsecrated. If a person spends his money or time foolishly or uses talent in song or business for mere pleasure or selfish gain, it is useless for him to profess that he loves God. People will not believe it. How easily we fall into the notion that duty to God consists in going through a form of worship rather than that careful guard over time, talent, money,—all which will make it count for the most possible for the kingdom. If a person can increase his usefulness by leading a public life, it is a sin for him to settle down in a secluded life; if he can manage a business or play on an instrument or speak with power,—whatever be the direction of his genius it is his duty to intentionally plan its use so that it will glorify God in the bettering of the world. An addition to the morals of the world is infinitely more valuable than an addition to its wealth. The scriptures bearing directly on the subject are not so numerous but they are weighty. If they are well studied there will be fewer silent voices in the song service and prayer meeting, fewer careless ways of conducting the Lord's work and greater blessings to all the world.

1. The Lord gives ability, Deut. 8: 18; Ecc. 5: 19.
2. Therefore consecrate your powers, Mark 12: 29-31.
3. Consecration of power in song, I Chron. 25: 7.
4. Consecration of skill on instruments, I Chron. 25: 1 and 6.
5. Of power to testify, Jer. 1: 6-10.
6. Of mechanical skill, Ex. 31: 1.
7. Of spiritual gifts, Rom. 12: 6-9.
8. Work required according to ability, Matt. 25: 15.
9. Faithfulness required, I Cor. 4: 2.
10. Final reward, II Cor. 8: 12; Luke 19: 15-28; Rev. 22: 12.

QUESTIONS

1. What principles ought to guide us in choosing an occupation?
2. In what ways do we most fail to consecrate ability?
3. What will be the end of such failure? Matt. 25: 30; Luke 12: 47.
4. How can we love the Lord with the heart, (affections) with the soul, (natural appetites) with the mind, with our strength?
5. What lessons can we learn from such examples as Joseph, Daniel, Paul, Gladstone, Frances Willard, Jenny Lind, Michael Angelo and others?

C. F. YODER.

PERFORMANCE, NOT EMOTION

A morning sermon by Rev. D. F. Bradley, Grand Rapids, Mich. Selected by Laura Slotter, North Ontario, Calif.

There is a question commonly asked, "How much emotion is required in a sincere Christian; how much feeling?" Jesus practically answers it when He says, Go and do as the Good Samaritan did. Emotion is not required here, but performance of duty.

Many people are troubled because they have not "the right feeling." They conceive it necessary to have some marked enthusiasm, some intense emotion, some strong wave of feeling that will lift them up out of the ordinary routine of life and sentiment, sweep them along and land them fully and finally within the charmed circle.

Far be it from me to underestimate the value of such emotions when properly controlled and directed. The great wise evangelists have rendered distinct service to human life. Their work has been of far-reaching influence not only in the Christianization,